

ABSTRACT

5 This invention provides a novel avirulence gene
from the rice blast pathogen, *Magnaporthe grisea*. The
gene, *AVR1-CO39*, confers cultivar-specific avirulence to
strains of *M. grisea* that carry the gene. Also disclosed
are methods of using the gene and its encoded products for
10 improving resistance of rice to the rice blast pathogen.